

Appln. No. 09/752,037  
Amendment dated July 25, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed May 23, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1           1. (Currently Amended) A method of handling a call from a caller to  
2 a communication device, the method comprising:  
3           receiving the call;  
4           determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating  
5           mode or a normal operating mode; and  
6           if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode ,  
7           completing the call if a privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

1           2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising if  
2 the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, routing the call  
3 to a message system if no privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

1           3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the privacy mode code  
2 is selected by a user of the communication device.

1           4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication  
2 device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

1           5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is  
2 performed by one of: a base station and a switch.

1           6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising  
2 the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the  
3 communication device in the privacy operating mode from the normal  
4 operating mode.

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1           7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the request further  
2 comprises:

3           a privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication  
4           device and adapted to be provided to the caller prior to completing  
5           the call; and  
6           the privacy mode code selected by the user of the communication  
7           device.

1           8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising  
2 the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the  
3 communication device out of the privacy operating mode.

1           9. (Currently Amended) A method of handling a call from a caller to  
2 a communication device, the method comprising:

3           receiving the call;  
4           determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating  
5           mode or a normal operating mode; and  
6           if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,  
7           providing a privacy mode message including a selected privacy  
8           override code to the caller.

1           10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising  
2 if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, completing  
3 the call if the selected privacy override code is entered by the caller.

1           11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising  
2 if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, routing the  
3 call to a message system if no selected privacy override code is entered by  
4 the caller.

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1           12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy mode  
2 message is selected from a group of prerecorded messages.

1           13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy mode  
2 message is recorded by a user of the communication device.

1           14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the privacy override  
2 code is selected by a user of the communication device.

1           15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the communication  
2 device is a cellular telephone or a personal digital assistant.

1           16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the method is  
2 performed by a base station or a switch.

1           17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising  
2 the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the  
3 communication device in the privacy operating mode.

1           18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the request further  
2 comprises:  
3           the privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication  
4 device and adapted to be provided to the caller upon receiving the call; and  
5           the privacy override code selected by the user of the communication  
6 device.

1           19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising  
2 the step of receiving a request from the communication device to place the  
3 communication device out of the privacy operating mode.

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1        20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having  
2 instructions for causing a computer to perform a method of handling a call  
3 from a caller to a communication device, the method comprising:  
4        receiving the call;  
5        determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating  
6        mode or a normal operating mode; and  
7        if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,  
8        completing the call if a predetermined code is entered by the caller.

1        21. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 20,  
2 further comprising if the communication device is in the privacy operating  
3 mode, routing the call to a message system if no predetermined code is  
4 entered by the caller.

1        22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having  
2 instructions for causing a computer to perform a method of handling a call  
3 from a caller to a communication device, the method comprising:  
4        receiving the call;  
5        determining if the communication device is in a privacy operating  
6        mode or in a normal operating mode; and  
7        if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,  
8        providing a privacy mode message including a selected privacy  
9        override code to the caller.

1        23. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 22,  
2 further comprising if the communication device is in the privacy operating  
3 mode, completing the call if the privacy override code is entered by the  
4 caller.

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1           24. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 22,  
2 further comprising if the communication device is in the privacy operating  
3 mode, routing the call to a message system if no privacy override code is  
4 entered by the caller.

1           25. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a call from a caller  
2 to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:  
3           a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the  
4           communication device to enter a privacy operating mode from a  
5           normal operating mode;  
6           a memory capable of storing a privacy mode message, the privacy  
7           mode message adapted to be provided to the caller prior to  
8           completing the call to the user; and  
9           a receiver capable of completing the call to the user if a privacy mode  
10          code is entered by the caller.

1           26. (Original) The system of claim 25, further wherein the receiver is  
2 capable of routing the call to a message system if no privacy mode code is  
3 entered by the caller.

1           27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the data entry device  
2 is a telephone keypad.

1           28. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the privacy mode  
2 code comprises at least one keystroke from the data entry device.

1           29. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the privacy mode  
2 code is selected by the user of the communication device.

1           30. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the communication  
2 device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

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1           31. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a call from a caller  
2 to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:  
3           a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the  
4           communication device to enter a privacy operating mode from a  
5           normal operating mode; and  
6           a memory capable of providing a privacy mode message including a  
7           selected privacy override code to the caller prior to completing the  
8           call to the user.

1           32. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising a receiver  
2 capable of completing the call to the user if the selected privacy override  
3 code is entered by the caller.

1           33. (Original) The system of claim 32, further wherein the receiver is  
2 capable of routing the call to a message system if no selected privacy  
3 override code is entered by the caller.

1           34. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the selected privacy  
2 override code is provided by the user of the communication device.

1           35. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a call from a caller  
2 to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:  
3           a data entry device capable of receiving input to cause the  
4           communication device to enter a privacy operating mode from a  
5           normal operating mode; and  
6           a receiver capable of receiving the call to the communication device  
7           and completing the call to the user only if an interrupt is received  
8           from the caller.

1           36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the interrupt is a  
2 privacy mode code entered by the caller.

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1           37. (Currently Amended) A system for handling a call from a caller  
2 to a user of a communication device, the system comprising:  
3           a receiver capable of receiving the call and a privacy mode code  
4           entered by the caller;  
5           a memory capable of storing a status indicating if the communication  
6           device is in a privacy operating mode or a normal operating mode;  
7           and  
8           a transmitter capable of completing the call to the user if the  
9           communication device is in the privacy operating mode and the  
10          privacy mode code is entered by the caller.

1           38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the  
2 memory is further capable of storing a message from the caller if the  
3 communication device is in the privacy operating mode and no privacy mode  
4 code is entered by the caller.

1           39. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the memory is further  
2 capable of storing a privacy mode message adapted to be provided to the  
3 caller prior to completing the call to the user.

1           40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein the  
2 receiver is further capable of receiving a request from the communication  
3 device to place the communication device in the privacy mode.

1           41. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein the request further  
2 comprises:  
3           a privacy mode message selected by a user of the communication  
4           device and adapted to be provided to the caller prior to completing  
5           the call to the user; and  
6           the privacy mode code selected by the user of the communication  
7           device.

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1           42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein the  
2 receiver is further capable of receiving a request from the communication  
3 device to place the communication device out of the privacy operating mode  
4 and into the normal operating mode.

1           43. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the communication  
2 device is one of: a cellular telephone and a personal digital assistant.

1           44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally  
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,  
3 passing the call to a voice messaging system if the privacy mode code is not  
4 entered by the caller, the voice messaging system being capable of  
5 recording a message spoken by the caller making the call.

1           45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally  
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,  
3 blocking completion of the call until the privacy mode code is entered.

1           46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally  
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,  
3 preventing the communication device from producing an incoming call  
4 signal if the privacy mode code is not entered by the caller.

1           47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally  
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,  
3 preventing the communication device from producing an incoming call  
4 signal for all calls for which the caller does not enter the privacy mode  
5 code.



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1           48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally  
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,  
3 requiring entry of the privacy mode code by the caller before the  
4 communication device produces an incoming call signal.

49. (Cancelled)

1           50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[[49]]] 1 wherein the  
2 normal operating mode ~~of operation~~ is characterized by producing an  
3 incoming call signal upon receipt of the call, and the privacy operating  
4 mode is characterized by producing the incoming call signal only if the  
5 caller has entered the privacy mode code.

1           51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising,  
2 if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode, announcing  
3 the privacy mode code to the caller.

1           52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of  
2 providing a privacy mode message including a selected privacy override  
3 code to the caller further comprises announcing the privacy override code to  
4 the caller.

1           53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further  
2 comprising the step of receiving a spoken command from a user of the  
3 communication device to place the communication device in the  
4 privacy operating mode.

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1           54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 additionally  
2 comprising, if the communication device is in the privacy operating mode,  
3 preventing the communication device from producing an incoming call  
4 signal if the privacy mode code is not entered by the caller while providing  
5 information regarding the incoming call through a display on the  
6 communication device.

1           55. (New) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising, if the  
2 communication device is in the normal operating mode , completing the call  
3 regardless of whether the privacy mode code is entered by the caller..